

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Incomplete call notification apparatus comprising:
a determination unit for detecting an uncompleted call by at least one of receiving a signal from a telephone switch and monitoring operation of said switch,
an interrogation unit for obtaining, from said switch, call data of said uncompleted call, said call being to a given called party, and
a forwarding unit for arranging said called data into a format for forwarding to said called party.
2. Incomplete call notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said forwarding unit comprises a database for storing said data for retrieval by said called party.
3. Incomplete call notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said forwarding unit comprises e-mail functionality for sending said data as an e-mail to a predetermined e-mail address.
4. Incomplete call notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said forwarding unit comprises messaging functionality for sending said data as a text message to a predetermined text-enabled destination.
5. Incomplete call notification apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said database is associated with an aggregation unit comprising:
a comparator for determining whether said obtained call data is the same as any already stored call data in said database, and
an aggregator, associated with said comparator, for aggregating together said obtained call data with any already stored call data identified by said comparator, thereby to output said obtained and already stored called data together as a single item.
6. Incomplete call notification apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said database is associated with an aggregation unit comprising:
a comparator for determining whether current call data is the same as any already stored call data in said database, and

an aggregator, associated with said comparator, for storing said current call data together with any already stored call data identified by said comparator.

7. Incomplete call notification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said call data comprises caller line identification (CLI).

8. Incomplete call notification apparatus comprising:
an input for receiving last call data from a telephone network switch, said last call data comprising at least caller identification information,
a database for storing at least said caller identification information from said input, and
a data retrieval unit, associated with said database and activatable from a telephone for forwarding said caller identification information to a called party.

9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said data retrieval unit is activatable by DTMF tones of said telephone.

10. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said data retrieval unit comprises a vocal readout facility for reading out said caller identification information over said telephone.

11. Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said data retrieval unit comprises an e-mail facility for sending said caller identification information to a predefined address.

12. Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said data retrieval unit comprises a messaging facility for sending said caller identification information to a predefined messaging target.

13. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said database is associated with an aggregation unit comprising:
a comparator for determining whether current caller identification information is the same as any already stored caller identification information in said database, and

an aggregator, associated with said comparator, for aggregating together said current caller identification information with any already stored caller identification information identified by said comparator, thereby to output said current and said already stored caller identification information as a single item.

14. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said database is associated with an aggregation unit comprising:

a comparator for determining whether current caller identification information is the same as any already stored caller identification information in said database, and

an aggregator, associated with said comparator, for storing said current caller identification information together with any already stored caller identification information identified by said comparator.

15. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said storing together comprises incrementing a number of times called field associated with said already stored caller identification information in said database.

16. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said database is structured such that said caller identification information is storable in said database together with a time of a respective call, and wherein said storing together comprises replacing a time associated with said already stored caller identification information with a time of said current call.

17. Apparatus according to claim 8, comprising notification functionality arranged such that a first entry for a given called party following a previous data retrieval activates said functionality to provide a notification to said called party that incomplete call data is awaiting retrieval.

18. Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said notification comprises an audible signal applied to a dialing tone.

19. Apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising incomplete call detection functionality associated with said input for detection of termination of a call

without said call being completed by answering at said called party, said detection functionality being arranged to trigger said input to carry out said receiving of said last call data.

20. Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said incomplete call detection functionality is operable to detect a timeout signal at said switch, therefrom to deduce said termination without completion.

21. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said input is operable via a protocol shared with said network switch to receive said last call information whenever said switch detects that a call is released by a calling party without being completed by answering at said called party.

22. Incomplete call notification database and retrieval apparatus comprising:

- a database, associated with a telephone network, for storing caller identification information for a given called subscriber whenever a call to said subscriber is not completed, said database being located remotely from said subscriber, and

- a retrieval unit, associated with said database and activatable from a telephone for forwarding said caller identification information to said given subscriber.

23. Incomplete call notification database and retrieval apparatus comprising:

- a database associated with a telephone network and for storing caller identification information for a given called subscriber whenever a call to said subscriber is not completed, said database being located remotely from said subscriber,

- an aggregation unit, associated with said database and comprising:

- a comparator for determining whether current call identification information is the same as already stored caller identification information, and

an aggregator, associated with said comparator, for arranging said current call identification information together with any already stored caller identification information identified by said comparator as a single item, and a retrieval unit for allowing a called party to access said arranged item.

24. A method of obtaining sources of incomplete calls over a telephone network comprising:

setting a network exchange switch with a protocol for sending caller identification information of calls made through said switch and not completed, said caller identification information being indicative of said source,

receiving said caller identification information at a notification platform on said network, and

forwarding said caller identification information to said respective called party.

25. A method of obtaining sources of incomplete calls over a telephone network comprising:

setting a network exchange switch to signal to a notification platform that a call has been placed through said switch and not completed,

receiving said signal at a notification platform on said network,

requesting stored last call data from said switch in response to said notification, said last call data being at least indicative of a respective source, and

arranging for forwarding of data indicative of said source to said respective called party.

26. A telephone network exchange switch set to:

a) detect when a call is released by a calling party without being completed by answering at a called party,

b) issue an incomplete call signal to a predetermined location, said incomplete call signal being indicative of said detection,

c) upon receipt of a reply to said signal, output stored last call data.

27. A telephone network exchange switch set to:

- a) detect that a call is released by a calling party without being completed by answering at a called party,
- b) obtain caller identification information of said calling party, and
- c) send said caller identification information to a predetermined location for retrieval by said called party.